



# TYPHOON NEWS

1ST BATTALION 2ND MARINES

DECEMBER 2010 ISSUE

## Inside this Issue:

Word from the CO	1
Message from Battalion Sgt Major	2
Message from the Battalion Chaplin	3
H&S Company News	4
Alpha Company News	5
Bravo Company News	6
Charlie Company News	7
Weapons Company News	8
Promotions	9
Family Readiness Officer	10
Events and Noteworthy Numbers	11

CO greetings to the families, friends, and supporters of 1/2

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself. Having taken command just over a week ago I can tell you that I am thrilled to be with 1/2. Tracey and I have many fond memories of this battalion, having served here on two prior occasions, and are very much looking forward to meeting everyone.

Over the last two months the Marines of the battalion have redeployed from Afghanistan, taken some well deserved leave, and been very busy accounting for equipment and preparing for the Change of Command which took place on 3 December 2010. On behalf of my family and all the Marines and families and friends of 1/2 I would like to wish LtCol Manning, Kimberly, Bradly, and Austin fair winds and following seas as they move to their next assignment. Their leadership, example, and inspiration was a major source of strength for the battalion and they will be sorely missed

The next few weeks will be very busy as the Marines prepare for leave and liberty over the holidays. Upon their return in January we will again get very busy as we send many of them off to schools to acquire new skills, refresh on critical job skills, and have the majority participate in the Tactical Small Unit Leadership Course which runs from 18-31 January. Other big events include rifle and pistol qualification in January, an inspection by the Commanding General in February, a Super Squad competition, and then going into March more inspections, field time, and training. In all it will be a very busy and exciting time and your Marines will benefit greatly from your understanding and support.

I want to repeat how excited I am to be with the battalion again and I look forward to working with and for you over the coming months.

God Bless, Happy Holidays, and Semper Fidelis

David B. Sosa  
LtCol, USMC  
Commanding





## Message from Battalion Sgt Major

Typhoon Family and Friends,  
Well we have all made it back from the leave periods and Thanksgiving holiday and are getting back into the training mindset. We have many Marines and Sailors that already have left for schools and others that have moved onto new duty stations. The change of command ceremony was an awesome success, and now we're getting into gear with our new Battalion Commander, LtCol Sosa.

I want to take the time to thank the families and friends of the Battalion that have been there to support the Marines and Sailors and make life just a bit easier for all. I hope the time spent with your loved one was restful and refreshing. As we get ready to move into the holiday season I just remind you all to take a little more time getting to your destinations and be safe. Everyone is important to the Battalion and we need everyone back at work safe.

The leave blocks for December will be 18<sup>th</sup> of December starting at 0800 and ending on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January at 1800. The "96" dates for those not going on leave will be: 1200 on 23 December till 1800 on 27 December and 1200 on 30 December till 1800 on 3 January.

I want to wish you all a Happy Holidays and wish you all safe passage during this time. Again, thank you all for being there to support the Marines and Sailors of the Battalion. We couldn't do it without your support and prayers.



"Semper Fi" and God Bless  
SgtMaj Jeffrey Cullen

# Chaplain's Corner

Well it's that time of year again! I recently received my orders for multiple deployments to the local shopping centers in the area. As I reported for "*Here hold this bag too!*" ops, I closed ranks with all the others following my Mrs. into a mall bursting with shoppers, all on mission to score that perfect gift for that special person. Regardless of how many others they had to walk around, over, or through, each was in pursuit of that coveted prize. As I took my post outside of the store, in one of the coveted massage chairs (the high ground), I watched the battle unfold and found myself thinking about those around me and what motivates them to "fight" so furiously. Sitting amongst the whipped I wondered. Is it greed? Is it guilt? Is it to make an impression, or score a favor? Or, are they driven by higher ideals like Love or Faith? What spins them into such frenzy?



For our family, this time of year is special to us because of our faith. As Christians, we celebrate the birth of the Savior and exchange gifts in honor of The Greatest Gift we have received- a personal relationship with Him. Not to sound too cliché, but we have found it to truly be the gift that keeps on giving! Regardless of your reasons, or your faith group, I think we can all agree that we are tempted to get really spun up this time of year. As you think about the holiday season, make your plans, fight the crowds and travel about, be careful of the stress that can build up. If you feel overwhelmed, try these tips I found helpful:

*Recognize that the period between 15 November and 2 January is a period of heightened stress!*

*Knowing is half the battle so don't get caught by surprise.*

*Remember "Flexibility" is a friend not an enemy. Change is one of the few constant things in life. Be Semper Gumby.*

*Avoid **Debt** if at all possible! Debt is relentless, compounding, and hard to get out from under.*

*Get a "Grip on Your Lips!" Gauge your emotions before you respond. Take the high road!*

*Remember you are in charge! Your Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express are not! Don't be afraid to "just say no!" to your kids, spouse, and family...saying no to some things enables you to say "yes" to others.*

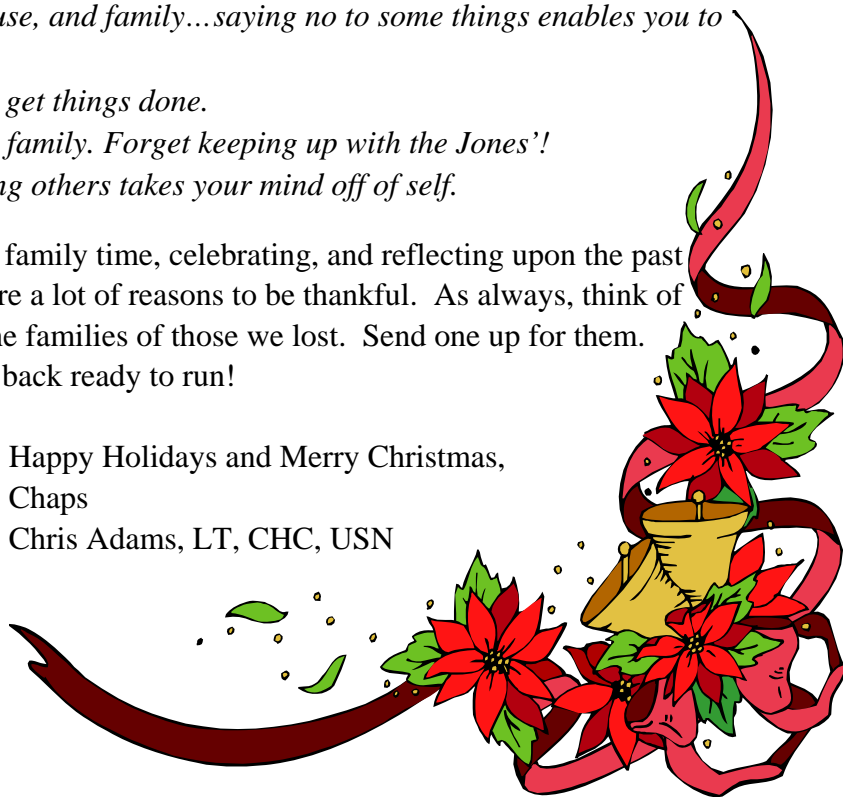
*Take leave. Don't depend on your days off to get things done.*

*Develop family traditions meaningful to your family. Forget keeping up with the Jones'!*

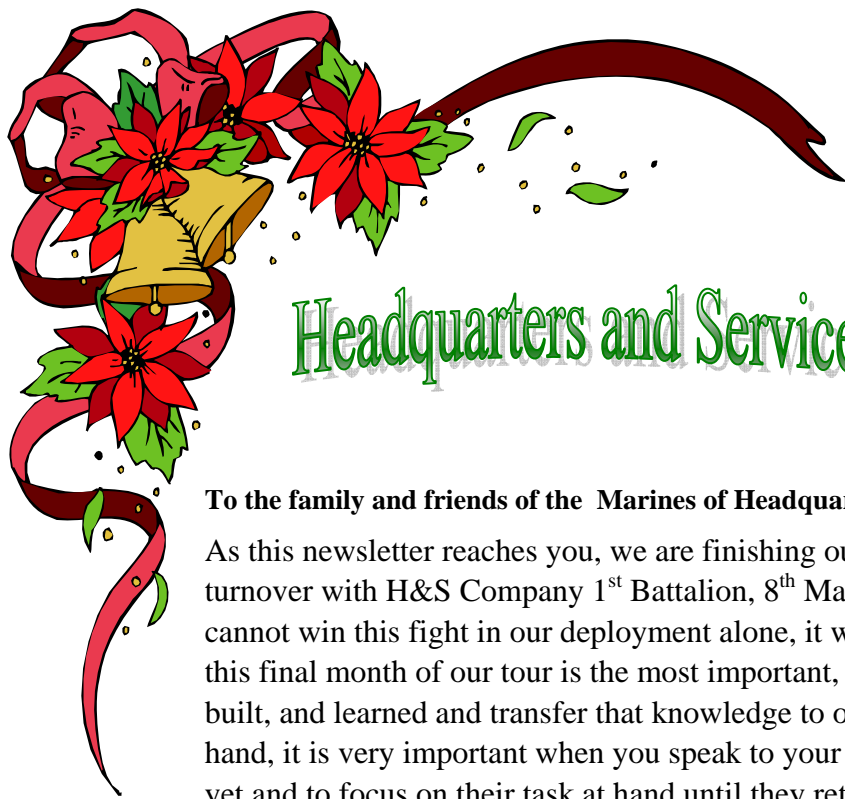
*Plan to give to someone less fortunate. Serving others takes your mind off of self.*

I hope you will walk into the New Year enjoying family time, celebrating, and reflecting upon the past twelve months. A lot has taken place and there are a lot of reasons to be thankful. As always, think of our fellow service members in harm's way and the families of those we lost. Send one up for them. Enjoy yourselves, be careful, chill out and come back ready to run!

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas,  
Chaps  
Chris Adams, LT, CHC, USN







## Headquarters and Service Company - Lonewolf Corner

**To the family and friends of the Marines of Headquarters and Service Company,**

As this newsletter reaches you, we are finishing our final days in AO Typhoon and preparing our turnover with H&S Company 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 8<sup>th</sup> Marines. Many times I have been reminded that we cannot win this fight in our deployment alone, it will take years from now to do so. That is why this final month of our tour is the most important, we must take everything we have accomplished, built, and learned and transfer that knowledge to our new counterparts. With this difficult task at hand, it is very important when you speak to your Marines, to remind them that they are not home yet and to focus on their task at hand until they return safely home!

August showed some reprieve from the extreme heat of July. Temperatures here are still somewhat high and the mid-day hours are difficult, but the remainder of the days are now cooler than they have been. This small change makes a huge difference in our daily lives and it will only continue to get cooler until we return home.

1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment is already on deck and often make statements such as "That's not possible" and "How did you pull that off" about the breadth and quantity of tasks the Marines of H&S Company have been carrying out for the past six months. This is just another reminder to me that they have truly been working harder than I could have ever imagined and what an awesome privilege it has been to have served with every one of your sons, brothers and husbands.

With your Marine coming home, it is important that you help him prepare for his return!

Most Marines, like myself, have no idea what has happened in the world for the past six to seven months. Bits and pieces make it through phone conversations or a few minutes on the internet, but by and large the world has grown 7 months while we were here; most Marines haven't had regular access to news. Be prepared to answer questions about some of the changes and major events from over the past months.

As always, our prayers are with our brothers who have been wounded or killed in action throughout the battalion and those Marine's families and loved ones.

Semper Fidelis,  
Lt. Joshua Hartley

Congratulations to our newly promoted Marines (shows rank promoted to):  
Lance Corporal Aranda  
Corporal Mitchell  
Corporal Sesemann

# Alpha Company - Sledgehammer

Dear Alpha Company Family and Friends,

I have become the new Company Commander and will strive to follow in the footsteps that were left before. I was the Executive Officer during the deployment and must say it was an honor and privilege to serve with your Marines and Sailors. There are no words, pictures, or videos that can display the missions these Marines accomplished. The Marines and Sailors have returned home and appreciate everything you have done and given them. The Marines and Sailors have succeeded and will continue to succeed with your support. Since we have returned they have had time to spend with you during holidays and shortened work days with the emphasis on spending time with you.

We have welcomed Lt George, Lt Farrell, Lt Flinn, 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt Webb, GySgt Page, SSgt Reyes and SSgt Thomas to the Company along with their family and friends. A few Marines have left and will be missed throughout the Company which includes Captain Wilkinson, Lt Campbell, Lt Hardenburgh, 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt Bass, GySgt Coon, and GySgt Pagan. Within the next couple months, we will have Marines getting out and entering into the civilian world, re-enlisting to move onto different duty stations, and we will also receive new Marines to fill billets throughout the Company for the future deployment.

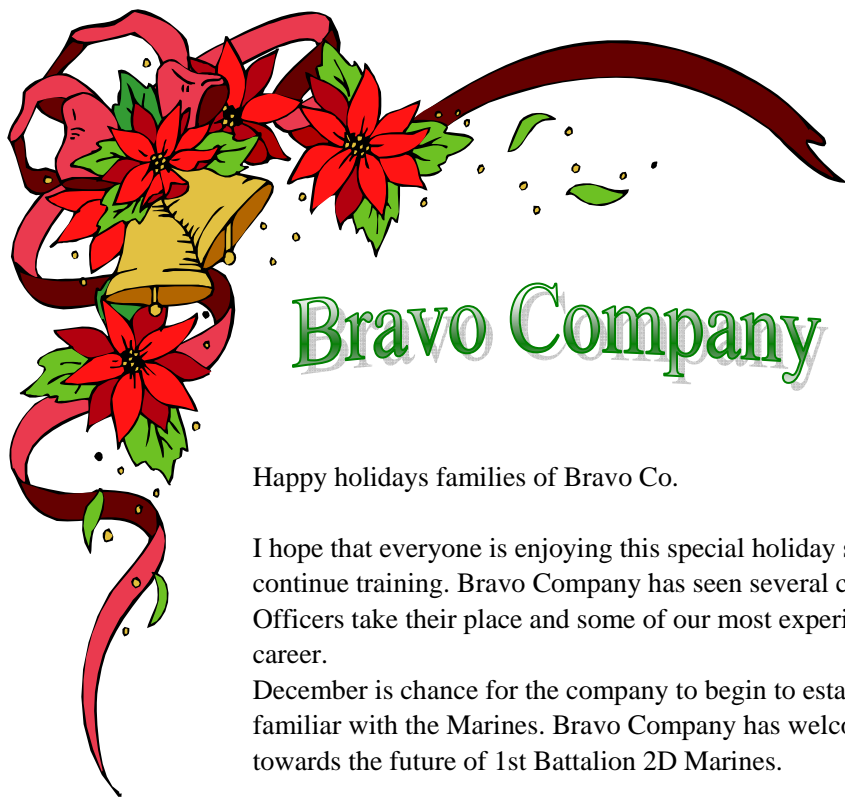
The Company will execute another leave block for the end of year holidays. Upon returning the Marines will have opportunities to attend different schools and field events that will ensure their warrior spirit and proficiency is shaped and maintained for our future deployment.

I close this letter with saying thank you for your support of your Marine or Sailor. Without it, we would not have achieved the compliments and respect we were given upon our return home. I ask that you continue to give your support and welcome the new family members and friends to the Alpha Company Family.

My thoughts and prayers go out to you and your families. Continue to take care of one another and have a Happy Holiday.

Lt Gene R. Price  
Alpha Company  
Company Commander





## Bravo Company - Mustang Corner

Happy holidays families of Bravo Co.

I hope that everyone is enjoying this special holiday season as the battalion begins the process of getting set to continue training. Bravo Company has seen several changes in leadership as new Staff Non-Commissioned Officers take their place and some of our most experienced Marines move on to greater opportunities of their career.

December is chance for the company to begin to establish our administration and the new leadership to become familiar with the Marines. Bravo Company has welcomed the new Battalion Commander and we look forward towards the future of 1st Battalion 2D Marines.

Sincerely,  
Capt Anthony Davis

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of the family members of Bravo Company,

I hope your shopping for presents has been a smooth and easy task. I would like to thank the spouses of the Marines that are in school right now for their patience, as I know you are eager to spend time with them on their much anticipated block leave. Their graduation date is quickly approaching and that makes us all happy. They will be well trained and anxious to spread the knowledge they learned from each of the schools they have attended. The Marines continue to do great things around the company and never seem to amaze me with their accomplishments.

I would like to recognize Sgt Harvilla for his superb effort he contributed to the company's messnight that took place 8 December. The company enjoyed the evening and we all shared our most recent stories from Afghanistan. Without Sgt Harvilla's attention to detail and genuine concern the evening would not have been such a success.

We look forward to our Christmas and New Years liberty periods and I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I hope that your travels are free of any incidents and that you all enjoy time with family and friends. Last but not least, I thank you for your patience and support that you provide your husband with. This is a difficult profession that comes with many sacrifices and your efforts do not go unnoticed.

Sincerely,  
1stSgt Keith Hoge

# Charlie Company - Hangman

Family and Friends of Charlie Company,

Merry Christmas and happy holidays to all! It is hard to believe that it has been over a year now since I wrote my first letter to you after becoming the commander of Charlie Company. The past year has been full of joy and heartache, loss and gain, reward and sacrifice. We have grown closer and gained new perspectives on life, love and family. It is my sincere hope that each and every member of the Hangman family has grown in faith, knowledge, maturity and understanding.

As we approach the holiday season, with some much deserved leave and liberty just around the corner, it is appropriate that we reflect upon our accomplishments over the past year. I am proud to report that the Marines and Sailors of Charlie Company have risen to every challenge and far surpassed every expectation.

The men of Charlie Company deployed to the most god-forsaken part of the most god-forsaken country on earth. There they fought a determined enemy throughout a grueling summer. They created security where there was none. They made order out of chaos. They saved people's lives. The exploits of the men of Charlie Company will be added to the greatest achievements of the Corps. Stories will be told of their valor to future generations of Marines.

My time as Commander of Charlie Company, the finest company of Marines in the Corps, is fast approaching an end. It is with heavy heart but fullness of spirit that I depart. I leave a piece of my own heart and soul with the Company and with the families of those we left behind. But I take with me a piece of every Marine and knowledge that we did our duty in all things. It has been my distinct honor and privilege to serve in the company of such fine men.

My love, affection, and heartfelt thanks goes out to each and every one of you. Fair winds and following seas.

Semper Fidelis,  
Captain Nathan B. Chandler  
Hangman 6

## **Awards:**

### **Purple Heart Medal:**

First Lieutenant Scott W. Cook  
First Lieutenant Daniel R. Kapavik  
Sergeant Samuel A. Gomez  
Corporal Christopher C. Chancellor  
Corporal Aaron C. Remole  
Lance Corporal Joshua D. Banks  
Lance Corporal Christopher M. Brooking  
Lance Corporal Richard M. Castagna  
Lance Corporal Alexander N. Cafaro  
Lance Corporal Francisco C. Contreras  
Lance Corporal Curtis R. Cook  
Lance Corporal Ronald G. Holton  
Lance Corporal Thayne J. Horrocks  
Lance Corporal Steven M. King  
Lance Corporal Patrick S. Muse  
Lance Corporal Justin F. Platt  
Lance Corporal Christopher M. Rawlings  
Lance Corporal Anthony V. Rosini  
Lance Corporal Daniel J. Smith

### **Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal w/Combat Distinguishing Device:**

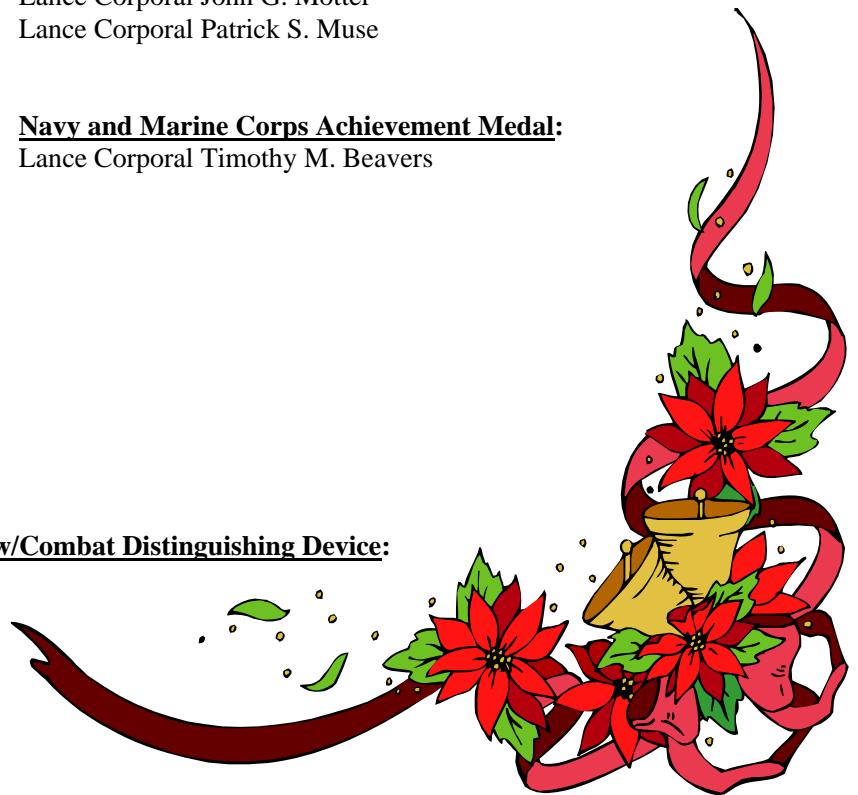
First Lieutenant Daniel R. Kapavik  
Staff Sergeant Andrew F. Vasey  
Corporal Alan J. McAlister  
Corporal Aaron C. Remole  
Corporal Stephen R. Rothermelpilla  
Hospitalman Third Class Timothy J. Helton  
Lance Corporal Daniel J. Smith

### **Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal w/Combat Distinguishing Device:**

Gunnery Sergeant John D. Wilkerson  
Sergeant Daniel A. Bellerose  
Sergeant Kristopher E. Kirkpatrick  
Corporal John A. Baker  
Corporal Robert W. Hulett  
Corporal Zachary R. Scott  
Corporal Ryan A. Wells  
Lance Corporal Richard M. Castagna  
Lance Corporal John G. Motter  
Lance Corporal Patrick S. Muse

### **Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal:**

Lance Corporal Timothy M. Beavers





## Weapons Company - Vandal Corner

Marines, Sailors, and Families,

Time spent with family and away from the Marine Corps during the holidays can be the most rewarding time of the year, and provides a welcome escape from the stress of deployment and daily life. I am sure we are all looking forward to leave and the festivities of the season.

Having recently taken command of Weapons Company as Captain Pion transitions to his new responsibilities in Quantico, VA, my goal is to elevate the already high level of training for our next deployment to Afghanistan. The company is now adjusting to its new SNCOs and officers, as well as preparing for the new Marines who will arrive early next year. During this period of adjustment, my number one priority is preparing the Marines for what they will experience in combat, but this must be tempered with the need for time and relaxation with our families. The enormous sacrifices that families endure for our nation's defense does not go unnoticed, and for your sacrifice I thank you. Have a merry Christmas and return to us rested and ready for the new year.

1st Lt Daniel Kapavik

Weapons Company Commander



# Congratulations to the following Marines on their promotion!

## **Bravo:**

### **Oct-**

Cpl Payne,  
Cpl Lowing

### **Nov-**

Cpl Houdeshell  
Cpl Walker



## **Charlie:**

### **Oct-To Cpl:**

Shaun C. Munkberg

### **Nov-To SSgt:**

Donald L. Eason, Jr.

### **To Cpl:**

Marcus R. Brooks  
Cody A. Mang

### **Dec-To LCpl:**

Lewis M. Skerry, IV

### **To Cpl:**

William W. Hendry, III  
(Meritoriously)  
Joseph T. Downs, Jr.  
(Meritoriously)  
Ronald G. Holton, Jr.

## **Weapons:**

### **Oct-To Cpl**

LCpl Atkinson C.B.  
LCpl Haney C.R.

### **Nov-To SSgt**

Sgt Eason D.L.

### **To Sgt**

Cpl McCoy C. R.  
Cpl Magdalenski J.W.

### **To Cpl**

LCpl Boxley J.T.  
LCpl Crapanzano E.A.

### **Dec-To Cpl**

LCpl Courtney L.H.  
LCpl Gomez M.S.  
LCpl Hackett J.P.





## Family Readiness Officer

Happy Holidays, 1/2 Family!

I hope this December's newsletter finds you all happy, healthy, and enjoying the Christmas season! I find myself looking back over the past year, and I am amazed and awed by all of you, and what you have overcome over this past year. Following several training evolutions, immediately following New Year's Day 2010, 1/2 departed to EMV; the battalion returned after training and departed for Afghanistan. Over the 7 months of deployment, I had the privilege and pleasure of meeting and communicating with so many of you! I am so honored to hopefully have assisted you in any way that I could. The resilience I witnessed throughout the deployment made me even prouder to be part of this country, the Marine Corps, and especially, this battalion.

Family Readiness is excited for our families to meet and become acquainted with our new battalion commander, LtCol David Sosa. LtCol Sosa comes to the battalion with a wealth of knowledge, experience, and dedication, and he is excited to get to know the battalion's families. Our "Meet the CO Night" is being held on Friday night, December 17, beginning at 1930, at the Russell Building (bldg 40) aboard Camp Lejeune. Additionally, Family Readiness will make other opportunities available in the month of January for you to meet with our new battalion commander to facilitate discussions related to your concerns, whatever those may be. These future dates and times will be sent via email / voice message through our communication tool soon, so please stay posted!

A 1/2 LINKS session has been scheduled! This LINKS session is directed to our battalion spouses. Spouses, LINKS is your "Marine Corps 101"!! If you have not attended LINKS, or even if you have in the past, please mark your calendar for this awesome training opportunity! LINKS refers to "Lifestyles, Information, Networking, Knowledge, and Skills", and covers a host of topics, including deployment, pay, career (re-enlistment, etc), moving, and resources in your local area. Our unit session is scheduled for Friday, 11 February, from 0830-1600 at the LINKS House, located on Midway Park, across from the Community Center. Free on-site childcare is available! Childcare is very limited, so if you plan to attend, and require childcare, please call NOW...910-451-1299.

Other Family Readiness events are currently being planned and notifications about future events will be sent to you via email and telephone message. As always, if there is anything that I can assist you with, please don't hesitate to call / email / text / Facebook me! I am pleased to help in any way that I can!

Have a wonderful, safe holiday season!

Semper Fi,

Shelley Rodriguez

Family Readiness Officer

# Upcoming Family Readiness Events

(Please review the following dates / locations, as some events may have changed. For base events, please see [www.mccslejeune.com](http://www.mccslejeune.com))

## December

17 December 2010

Meet the CO Night  
Russell Bldg  
1830\*

## January

## February

11 February 2011

Spouse LINKS Class  
LINKS HOUSE  
0830-1600

\* Free Childcare available at Brewster CDC children must be enrolled in children youth and teen program and have white card.

## Noteworthy Phone Numbers

Shelley Rodriguez, Family Readiness Officer	(910) 451-3288 (office) (910) 382-2579 (cell)	Military OneSource	(800) 433-6868
2nd Mar Div Duty Chaplain	(910) 451-2414	Tri-care	(800) 931-9501
1/2 Duty (24hrs)	(910) 451-1519	Family Member Employment Assistance Program	(910) 450-1676 (TT) (910) 451-3366 (Mdwy Pk)
8th Marine Reg Duty	(910) 451-4841	MCCS Counseling Center	(910) 451-2864
American Red Cross	(910) 451-2173 (877) 272-7337	Exceptional Family Member Program	(910) 451-4394
Naval Hospital	(910) 450-4300	FOCUS Project	(910) 450-0178
Navy/Marine Corps Relief	(910) 451-5584	Child, Youth, and Teen Programs (Resource and Referral)	(910) 449-9552
Brewster CDC	(910) 450-8467	Base Legal	(910) 451-1903
LINKS	(910) 451-1299	Base Information	(910) 451-1113

**Commander's Hotline**  
**(800) 230-8762**  
**Press 1, 1**

<http://www.marines.mil>

<http://iimefpublic.usmc.mil/public/iimefpublic.nsf/unitsites/rct2>